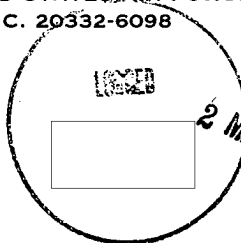


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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
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Lt Gen Edward J. Heinz
Dir, Intel Community Staff
Central Intelligence Agency
Community HQ Building
Washington, DC 20505

Dear General Heinz

Attached is A Pattern for Joint Operations: World War II Close Air Support North Africa, by Dr. Daniel R. Mortensen of our staff. This work is the product of an exchange program with the U.S. Army Center of Military History and is published by the Center.

This monograph examines a subject of great importance to the Army and the Air Force: the origin and development of the American close air support system in World War II. The work centers on the planning, organization, and operations of the North African campaign because, in this first major test of American ground armies on the offensive in World War II, our basic doctrine for tactical air power was formulated. After the defeat at Kasserine Pass, American forces realized that air units needed to be concentrated under the control of a single air officer working closely with the senior ground commander. Modeling our organization and concepts after those of the British, our Army and Army Air Forces forged a set of relationships, procedures, and close air support practices that not only were crucial to successes in later World War II campaigns, but became the foundation of our tactical air power and our air-ground relationships of the last forty years.

The process by which we worked out the concepts, doctrine, and procedures -- in the midst of battle -- has many lessons for today. General Stofft, the Army Chief of Military History, and I hope this joint publication will help our two services work together even more effectively in the coming years.

Sincerely

RICHARD H. KOHN
Chief, Office of
Air Force History

1 Attachment
Monograph